

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077848
ORIGIN PM-05

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HQ USAF WASHDC/XOXXI/XOXXW
HQ TAC LANGLEY AFB VA/DOO
HQ SAC OFFUTT AFB NE/DOT/DOO
HQ MAC SCOTT AFB IL/DOO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077848

E.O. 11652:ADS-DECLASSIFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS

TAGS:MILI, OCLR, CA, US

SUBJECT: COMBINED FORCES TRAINING OPERATION (MAPLE FLAG D-1)

1. CANADIAN FORCES HAVE INVITED THE USAF TACTICAL AIR
COMMAND (TAC) TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMBINED USAF/CANADIAN
AIR COMMAND TRAINING OPERATION AT COLD LAKE CANADIAN
FORCES BASE (CFB). REQUEST EMBASSY ADVISE APPROPRIATE
HOST OFFICIALS/AGENCIES OF THE OPERATION DETAILED BELOW.

2. THE OPERATION WILL BE TO PROVIDE REALISTIC AIRCREW
TRAINING FOR BOTH CANADIAN AND US AIRCREWS. MISSIONS
WILL BE FLOWN FROM COLD LAKE CFB TO THE COLD LAKE
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PAGE 02 STATE 077848

TACTICAL RANGE AND ADJOINING TRAINING RANGES BY US AND
CANADIAN AIRCRAFT THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION. US FORCES
WILL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

UNIT ----- AIRCRAFT/NUMBERS TYPE OF MISSION

355 TFW -- A-7/10 ----- AIR TO GROUND

1 TFW --- F-15/6 ----- AIR SUPERIORITY
3 MAW --- A-4/8 ----- AIR TO GROUND
MAC --- C-141/3 ----- TACTICAL RESUPPLY

(AIRCROWS WOULD BE ROTATED TWO WEEKS INTO THE OPERATION)
CANADIAN FORCES WILL CONSIST OF CF-104 AND CF-5 AIRCRAFT
EMPLOYED IN AIR-TO-GROUND AND AIR-TO-AIR MISSIONS.
ADDITIONAL US FORCES WILL CONSIST OF F-111 AND B-52
SORTIES ORIGINATING FROM AND RETURNING TO US BASES FOR
AIR-TO-GROUND SUPPORT, E-3A SORTIES ORIGINATING FROM
AND RETURNING TO US BASES FOR AIRBORNE WARNING AND
CONTROL, AND OTHER ELEMENTS TO PROVIDE THREAT SIMULATION
AND COMMAND AND CONTROL.

3. THE OPERATION IS PLANNED FOR THE PERIOD 22 APRIL
THROUGH 20 MAY 1978. DURING THIS TIME, THE AIRCRAFT
AND CREWS WILL PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTENSIVE COMBAT
SCENARIO FLYING A MINIMUM OF TEN SORTIES PER DAY. THE
AIR-TO-GROUND AIRCRAFT (A-7/A-4/CF-104/CF-5/F-111/B-52)
WILL BE ARMED WITH TWENTY FIVE POUND PRACTICE BOMBS
CONTAINING SMOKE SPOTTING CHARGES, TWENTY MILLIMETER BALL
(NON-EXPLOSIVE) AMMUNITION AND POSSIBLY MAVERICK (AGM-65)
AIR-TO- GROUND MISSILES WITH LIVE WARHEADS. PARTICIPATING
FORCES WILL ALSO OPERATE RADAR WARNING RECEIVERS AND
ELECTRONIC WARFARE COUNTER MEASURES EQUIPMENT TO SIMULATE
A THREAT ENVIRONMENT. THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION THE
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 077848

ELECTRONIC WARFARE THREAT EQUIPMENT WILL BE PERIODICALLY
RELOCATED BY CH-53 HELICOPTER TO INCREASE THE REALISM
OF THE OPERATION. THE F-15 AIRCRAFT WILL CARRY CAPTIVE
MISSILES (NO WARHEAD, NO ROCKET MOTOR) AND ALSO EMPLOY
RADAR WARNING RECEIVERS IN THE THREAT ENVIRONMENT.
AUDIO VISUAL COVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED.

4. MINIMUM MAINTENANCE SUPPORT WILL BE REQUIRED OF THE
HOST BASE. US FORCES WILL BE SELF SUSTAINING AND WILL
OPERATE ON AN INTEGRATED MAINTENANCE CONCEPT, SHARING
EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL AS REQUIRED TO REDUCE OVERALL
COSTS. THE US AIR FORCE (TACTICAL AIR COMMAND) WILL
COMPENSATE COLD LAKE CFB FOR THE COST OF SUCH ITEMS
AS RATIONS, QUARTERS, LEASED VEHICLES, FACILITIES, ETC.
THE CANADIAN FORCES HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO HESE
ARRANGEMENTS.

5. APPROXIMATELY 325 USAF PERSONNEL (75 OFFICERS AND
250 ENLISTED MEN) WILL DEPLOY TO COLD LAKE CFB FOR THE
DURATION OF THE OPERATION. IN ADDITION, COMBINED
PLANNING CONFERENCES IN ADVANCE OF THE ACTUAL DEPLOYMENT
HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED.

6. MAPLE FLAG D-1 HAS THE POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE
OUTSTANDING JOINT AND COMBINED TRAINING. THE LAKE AND
TREE COVERED TERRAIN OF THE RANGE WHICH IS SO SIMILAR
TO THE TERRAIN IN CENTRAL EUROPE WILL PROVIDE A NEW

DIMENSION OF REALISM WHICH IS NOT ATTAINABLE AT OUR
PRESENT DESERT TRAINING LOCATION. THIS OPERATION
MAY SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR FUTURE COMBINED OPERATIONS
TO PROMOTE THE COMBAT READINESS OF US AND CANADIAN
FORCES.

7. FYI. PRE-COORDINATION OF THIS OPERATION HAS BEEN
ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH SERVICE TO SERVICE CHANNELS IN
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PAGE 04 STATE 077848

ACCORDANCE WITH THE CANADA-UNITED STATES PROCEDURES FOR
CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT OF SERVICE AIRCRAFT, PART ONE
APPENDIX, TYPE OF FLIGHT SIX.

8. WE ASSUME THAT APPROPRIATE BLANKET OVERFLIGHT AND
LANDING CLEARANCES AS WELL AS PERSONNEL ENTRY CLEARANCES
HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR BY NATIONAL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS.

9. UNCLASSIFIED PUBLIC INFORMATION REGARDING THIS
OPERATION MAY BE RELEASED WITH HOST CONCURRENCE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC INFORMATION GUIDANCE WHICH WILL
BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. END FYI.
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